



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

For immediate release
March 8, 2023

MKO Statement on International Women's Day

Treaty Five Territory, Thompson, MB – Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) Inc. is issuing this statement in recognition of International Women's Day. First observed in 1911, this annual day celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women globally, and marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

Grand Chief Garrison Settee states:

"Today, I honour the women in the MKO First Nations and the important roles they have in our lives. You are our matriarchs, our kokums, our mothers, aunties, sisters, and daughters. On behalf of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, I acknowledge the achievements of the women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse people in MKO communities.

Women are sacred, and today and every day we need to each do our part to make the world a better and safer place for them. We need to stand up against gender stereotypes, discrimination, and bias, and create space for First Nations women in our society.

I recognize the women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people in our MKO communities that lead us, as Chiefs and Councillors, as family leaders, and as change makers, like the women I work side by side with each day at MKO. You are role models to our youth and an inspiration for our communities.

The theme for International Women's Day 2023 is 'Embrace Equity.' As the Grand Chief for MKO, I commit to advocate for not just equality for First Nations women, but for opportunities made just for them to raise them up and ensure that their voices are heard. I encourage others to stand up against the discrimination and bias faced by First Nations women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals, and celebrate their accomplishments."

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